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Fifty-first session
SIXTH COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the Sixth Committee's attention to the following.

I. ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly decided to allocate 12 items to the Sixth Committee. The titles of these items and their numbers are reproduced in the letter dated 20 September 1996 from the President of the Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/51/1).

II. DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

3. The following table lists the documents of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of preceding sessions of the Assembly, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee,* in accordance with requests of Member States.

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* The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session. The listing of documents is based on information available as at 19 September 1996.

	Projected date of issuance
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [144]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/215)	Issued
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [145]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/257)	Issued
Letter dated 29 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/321)	Issued
Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses [146]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/275)	2 October
(A/51/275/Add.1)	2 October
United Nations Decade of International Law [147]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/278)	8 October
Letter dated 10 September 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/344-S/1996/734)	Issued
Identical letters dated 10 September 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council (A/51/345-S/1996/739)	Issued
Letter dated 11 September 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/349-S/1996/742)	Issued
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-eighth session [148]	
Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/51/10) .	26 September
Note by the Secretary-General (A/51/332)	26 September

	Projected date of issuance
Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/358)	26 September
Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/365)	26 September
Establishment of an international criminal court [149]	
Report of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/51/22)	15 October
(A/51/22/Add.1)	15 October
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-ninth session [150]	
Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/51/17) .	Issued
Letter dated 21 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/154)	Issued
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [151]	
Report of the Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 26 (A/51/26) .	early November
Letter dated 12 April 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/115)	Issued
Letter dated 1 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/126)	Issued
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [152]	
Report of the Special Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/51/33)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/317)	23 September

	Projected date of issuance
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [153]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/336)	30 September
Letters dated 26 February and 4 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/70-S/1996/135 and A/51/74-S/1996/163)	Issued
Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/87)	Issued
Letter dated 21 March 1996 from the representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/84-S/1996/211)	Issued
Letter dated 28 May 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/210)	Issued
Letter dated 5 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/208-S/1996/543)	Issued
Letter dated 16 July 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/216-S/1996/563) ...	Issued
Letter dated 1 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/261)	Issued
Letter dated 12 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/284)	Issued
Note verbale dated 30 August 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/330-S/1996/721 and Corr.1)	Issued
Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order [154]	
No new documentation	

Projected date of issuance

Human resources management (Reform of the internal system of justice in the United Nations Secretariat) [122]

No new documentation

III. DATE FOR CONCLUDING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, ORDER AND APPROXIMATE DATES OF CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

> "Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item."

5. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly decided that the fifty-first session should recess not later than Tuesday, 17 December 1996, and conclude on Monday, 15 September 1997. Under the circumstances, it appears advisable that the Sixth Committee should arrange its schedule of meetings in such a way that it will conclude its work not later than Wednesday, 27 November 1996.

6. The Sixth Committee may wish to consider, for the purpose of adopting its programme of work, the following timetable, drawn up on the basis of the relevant General Assembly resolutions as well as previous programmes of work adopted by the Committee, which indicates approximate dates of consideration of agenda items referred to it.

	Approximate dates of consideration
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-ninth session [150]	23-24 September 1996
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [152]	25-30 September
Human resources management (Reform of the internal system of justice in the United Nations Secretariat) [122]	30 September-1 October

	Approximate dates of consideration
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [153]	1-4 October
Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses [146]	7-25 October
Establishment of an international criminal court [149] ...	28-31 October
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [144]	1 November
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-eighth session [148]	4-15 November
United Nations Decade of International Law [147]	18-20 November
Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order [154]	21 November
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [145]	22 November
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [151]	25 November
Reserve	26-27 November

7. With regard to agenda item 146, "Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses", the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session decided that the Sixth Committee shall convene as a working group of the whole at the fifty-first session to elaborate a framework convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses on the basis of the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission in the light of the written comments and observations of States and views expressed in the debate at the forty-ninth session (resolution 49/52 of 9 December 1994).

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP AND HOLDING OF CONSULTATIONS

8. As regards agenda item 147, "United Nations Decade of International Law", the General Assembly at its fiftieth session requested the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on this item to continue to work at the fifty-first session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work (resolution 50/44 of 11 December 1995).

9. Since the conference services to be provided for meetings of the working group and for the holding of informal consultations are those allocated to the Sixth Committee, it is important that such meetings and consultations be held in place of, rather than in addition to, meetings of the Committee.

V. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Main Committees allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditures by the Secretariat and for their consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. Under the circumstances, if Wednesday, 27 November 1996, is accepted as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 5 above), Monday, 11 November 1996, would have to be considered as the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications.

VI. CONFERENCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

11. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold an average of six plenary meetings per week and the Working Group of the Whole referred to in paragraph 7 above to hold 12 meetings per week. Normally, morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

12. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Services Section through the Secretary of the Committee.